

HIPAA & TRICARE

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Newsletter

Office of HIPAA Electronic Standards

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Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

HHS Extends the Enforcement Rule

The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) is extending by six months the expiration date of the interim final HIPAA Enforcement Rule. The interim final enforcement rule originally was set to expire September 16, 2005. Published September 14, 2005 in the Federal Register, the regulatory action extends the expiration date to March 16, 2006, to avoid the disruption of ongoing enforcement actions while HHS works to develop a more comprehensive enforcement rule. You may read the extension notice at the following link: http://www.hipaadvisory.com/regs/regs_in_PDF/enforext2.pdf

Claims Attachment NPRM

On September 23, 2005, the HHS published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for the Standards for Electronic Health Care Claims Attachments. This rule proposes standards for electronically requesting and supplying particular types of additional health care information in the form of an electronic attachment to support submitted health care claims data. It will implement some of the requirements of the Administrative Simplification portion of HIPAA. Find more information at (<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/242/2/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-18927.htm>)

CMS ends Contingency Plan

On August 4, 2005, CMS announced the end of a portion of CMS HIPAA contingency plan, in effect since October 16, 2003, under which Medicare continued accepting non-compliant electronic claims after the deadline. Prior to October 1, 2005, claims in a non-compliant electronic format will continue to be paid. This process changes as of October 1, 2005, when claims that do not meet standards required by HIPAA will be returned to the filer for re-submission as compliant claims. Non-compliant claims will not be processed. The contingency continues for other electronic health care transactions, but CMS expects to end the contingency plan for these transactions in the near future. The remittance advice transaction is the next HIPAA transaction for which CMS expects to end its contingency plan. For more information visit the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1528>.

Upcoming Events

AMSUS	Oct 30-Nov 4
HL7	Nov 8-9
WEDI Annual Conf	Nov 14-17
TRICARE	Jan 30-Feb